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Production

3. Buna

a. Production of Buna reached a maximum of 2,700 tons - including about 1,000 tons of Styrol - in August 1949. On receipt of this news, the Russians ordered 3,000 tons to be produced during September 1949.

b. Buna output is dependent on the production capacity of the equipment used in the final so-called polymerization stage. The works had two polymerization plants, the newest built early during the war, which had a combined monthly capacity of 3,000 tons. The newer plant was dismantled and shipped to the USSR in May and June 1948. Buna production sagged to 900 tons monthly at the end of 1948, due to the western blockade which prevented the works from obtaining sufficient quantities of certain production agents, notably phenyl-beta-naphthylamine, which is secured from the Badische Anilin und Sodafabriken in Ludwigshafen.

c. When the blockade was lifted, production mounted and the figure of 1,700 tons per month attained in the spring of 1949 was soon exceeded as the result of a technical improvement invented by Drs. Joseph Fischer, Johne and Zaucker, who were financially rewarded by the Russians for this contribution.

[redacted] the improvement is based on the preparation
of a higher concentration of the Latex liquid from which Buna is derived.

d. [redacted] more than 90 percent of the Buna goes to the
USSR. It is hauled by truck daily to the Halle-Trotha shipyards for barge transport - presumably to Stettin. The balance of Buna is exported despite the short supply in the Russian Zone of Germany. Source notes that even vulcanization of bicycle tires for Buna Werke personnel is limited to 200 per month.

4. Alcohol

a. Alcohol, another main production item at the Buna Werke, is turned out in two forms: first as a by-product in the hydrogenation of aldol, a pre-product of Butol needed for the production of Butadien gas which, in turn, is required to produce Latex liquid and ultimately Buna. Also called Z-Sprit (Zwangsabfallsprit), this alcohol is being made at the rate of 500-700 tons per month, most of it going to the USSR. Up to mid-1948, a substantial part of the alcohol was used at Schkopau to produce ethylene, from which glycol and glysantine (an anti-freeze agent) were taken. Only a very little of it is still utilized in the production of acetic ester and acetates needed as lacquer solvents.

b. The second type is hydrogenation alcohol, stemming from the hydrogenation of acetic aldehyde which, in turn, is fabricated from carbide by way of acethylene. Output of this type alcohol has increased since January 1949 and 2,000 tons were produced in August 1949. All of it is shipped to the USSR in tank cars. The Russians require both types of alcohol for their production of synthetic rubber through the Lebedev method, which permits the manufacture of Butadien directly from alcohol in contrast to the several steps in Schkopau procedure. Hydrogenation alcohol, containing small amounts of paraldehyde, is an essential base in the Lebedev method. One of the plants where Buna Werke alcohol is worked up to Butadien is located in Yevremov.

5. Carbide

a. Carbide is the base product used at the Buna Werke. It is worked up to acethylene and is also used as a base for the production of hydrogenation ethylene, from which ethylene oxide and lubricating oil are derived.

[redacted]

Other Products

a. Between June and August 1949 the works produced approximately [illegible] tons monthly of phthalic acid, previously turned out in smaller amounts. The napthaline from which it is made comes from the USSR and most of the phthalic acid goes there. Some of it is used at Schkopau as a softening agent in the production of Igelit. The Russians have ordered an increase and phthalic acid is now made in seven ovens as against only one previously.

b. Igelit is made by the addition of phthalic acid to polymenyl-chlorids which in turn derives from vinylchlorids. The average monthly production of polymenyl chlorids from April through July 1949 was 1,000 tons. This dropped to 300 tons in August 1949, when production was discontinued because the Igelit stockpile amounted to 4,000 tons. Some 300-400 tons monthly of vinylchlorids go to the organic department of the former IG works in Bitterfeld where it is worked into Igelit for the fabrication of hand bags, lamp screens, etc.

c. January through August 1949 the Buna Werke produced a monthly average of 5,000 tons of sodium hydroxids solution needed in the cellulose industry.